

**COA Executive Committee
Meeting Notes
March 17, 2011**

Participants: Elaine Binder, John Honig, Vivien Hsueh, Robert Tiller, Spence Schron, Beth Shapiro, Jack Sprague, Judy Welles, Grace Whipple

Staff: Odile Saddi, Area Agency on Aging Director

Topic	Discussion Points	Decisions/follow-up
Committee Reports	<p>Public Policy All bills the Commission has endorsed are moving forward in both the House and the Senate. Final vote will be April 11.</p> <p>A new bill supporting extended unemployment benefits has been presented. Should the Commission endorse based on those over 60 have a more difficult time finding employment. Only 3 weeks left, COA endorsement will not matter.</p> <p>Aging in Place in Community David Mohabbi, President and CEO of Regency Cab and Challenger presented information on twelve MV-1 vehicles he has purchased. Vehicles are specific to transporting seniors and people with disabilities. He is requesting endorsement to secure special licenses for use in Montgomery County. Current County process is lengthy.</p> <p>Health and Wellness Concerns were expressed that the Falls Prevention Project initiated by the Primary Care Coalition is not clear enough.</p>	<p>Elaine thanked Jack for the incredible work he has done in Annapolis. The Commission is now well known by our County delegation.</p> <p>Action: Need to read the bill and see the fiscal note. Jack will read summary from outside group and report back. Public Policy Committee will give recommendation on Monday/Tuesday.</p> <p>Action: Odile will check with Carolyn Biggins to determine the appropriateness of COA requesting expedition of the license process.</p> <p>COA cannot endorse any company but does think that these vehicles would be a welcome addition to the effort to transport seniors since they are safe and senior friendly.</p> <p>Action: Task Force will write an explanation to clarify that the Commission would act in the role of endorsement and advisory. Senior Sub-cabinet Health and Wellness Work Group will take on this project, too.</p>

	<p>Communications and Community Outreach Working on best methods of communicating with Stakeholders. Committee felt that emails were not best form of communication; however Feedback Forms indicated that was preferred method. At this stage Face-to-face is always best but not always practical. Next meeting will discuss further how to build partnerships.</p> <p>Information mart requires a lot of work. It would be good for Commission to attend GROWS meetings; however date is in conflict with COA meetings.</p>	<p><u>Action:</u> Encourage Stakeholders to attend COA committee meetings; also encourage Commissioners to visit Senior/Recreation Centers and talk with seniors Promote COA website, however website needs updating.</p> <p>Beth attends most GROWS meetings.</p>
COA and Vital Living Committee coordination of efforts	Brief discussion of suggestion that COA and VLC coordinate efforts. Purpose would be to avoid duplication of efforts and that the VLC could testify on behalf of Commission. VLC already testifies on behalf of seniors.	VLC is for those over 50, Commissions focuses mostly on the needs of those 70 and better. We both work well and have complementary activities, but at this point COA has a great deal on its plate.
Upcoming Events	<p>City of Gaithersburg Active Aging Expo is planned for Monday, May 2, 9 a.m. – 2 p.m.</p> <p>April 7, ‘Consider the Conversation’, 6:30 p.m. Silver Spring Civic Building – film, then panel.</p> <p>JCA Employment Expo – May 17 WHARFF Expo is planned for June 12 Leisure World Expo – May 26</p>	<p><u>Action:</u> Commission needs volunteers to help cover a table at Active Aging Expo.</p> <p>Reminders will be placed monthly on COA calendar</p>
Transportation	<p>Elaine will attend the Stakeholder meeting of the Bus Rapid Transit study. She is working with Carolyn Biggins to plan a conference to bring together public and private senior transportation providers.</p>	<p>They are putting together a steering committee. Commission will function as a leader in this effort.</p>

Senior Sub-cabinet	Elaine joined the Senior Sub-Cabinet as a participating member of the group representing the Commission. The Group is in the process of developing measurable goals to help seniors age successfully in their community.	Each of the eight Subcabinet work groups will identify 3 – 5 measurable outcomes.
County Executive FY'12 Budget Proposal	Very few cuts to senior programs this year; however, senior programs have been greatly impacted over the past 3 years. Ride-On fares will remain as is; monthly taxi coupons will not be cut although there will be a slight increase in the cost of the second book. The one HHS area that was reduced was \$100,000 in Home Care, which would cover 8 new clients. Two contracts with non profit agencies have been eliminated. Recreation restored all sites that had been closed, but 6 staff positions were cut. Therefore, programs must be volunteer-driven. Senior Olympics program funding has been eliminated. The Office of the Commission for Women, the Office of Human Rights, and the Regional Service Centers have been consolidated and will now come under the Office of Community Engagement.	The Executive Committee recommends that the COA support the County Executive's Proposed budget without taking any additional reductions or eliminations of senior programs and services.
Annual Meeting	<p>Thursday, May 26. Major outcome will be the selection of Summer Study topics. Proposals can be submitted either by individual Commissioners or by a Committee. Deadline for submission is May 13.</p> <p>Suggestions were made about a speaker.</p> <p>Someone needs to take charge of the food.</p>	<p><u>Action:</u> Elaine will present information and outline at COA meeting.</p> <p><u>Action:</u> Grace will contact David Snyder Pearce, a Futurist.</p> <p><u>Action:</u> Jack volunteered, and we will ask others to do so at the COA meeting</p>
Next Meeting	Executive Committee will not meet in April. Next meeting - Thursday, May 19, 2011	7300 Calhoun Place, Suite 600-Conference Room 6B